

Discovery Class Newsletter



Welcome Back

Welcome back to another busy and exciting school term! We hope you and your whaanau enjoyed a well-deserved break and had time to relax, recharge, and make some special memories together. This term is shaping up to be full of wonderful learning opportunities and events, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone dive back into school life with energy and enthusiasm. The last term of the year also means end of year testing and end of year reports!

This term's learning...

In Literacy, we will be integrating our reading and writing skills as we explore, question, and investigate wool – its production, how it is processed, its properties, and the many versatile ways it is used. The wool inquiry will link strongly to science, technology, and the arts, as students investigate, experiment, and create. Students will also be finishing off their learning around persuasive writing, with a focus on using emotive language to convince and influence their readers. Our shared novel for the term will be 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown – I was surprised to find no one had yet read this book!

In Numeracy, each group will continue working through their Prime books while also filling any gaps in Phase 2 learning as a whole class, we will begin with time. We will keep strengthening knowledge and recall of multiplication facts through Times Tables Rockstars. By Year 5/6, this recall is foundational, making problem solving in all areas of maths much smoother. Please encourage your child to practise at home – and for those who already have strong recall, there are always the 12s, 13s, and 14s to stretch their knowledge and speed even further.

In P.E., our big focus this term will be on the key skills of run, jump, and throw, in preparation for both our rural schools athletics and interschool athletics events. These sessions will help students build fitness, technique, and confidence across a variety of athletic disciplines. Please ensure your tamaiti has comfortable clothing at school each day – shorts/tights and a t-shirt are ideal, with a jersey if the weather is cooler or windy.

This term we will also be learning to code using Scratch, a fun and interactive way to build digital skills. Once students have mastered the basics, they will be challenged with Game Design – creating their own simple games. This will not only spark their creativity and problem-solving skills, but also give them a real appreciation of the thought, planning, and coding that goes on behind the scenes when digital games are made. Typing Club will also feature 10 minutes per day, as students follow a series of lessons to increase their typing speed and accuracy, whilst also learning how to type with correct positioning on the keyboard.



Reminders

- All children will continue to have access to StepsWeb at home - This platform is great for a structured approach to reading, spelling and vocabulary.
- Encourage reading at home on a daily basis (reading logs).
- Online reading available through the MPDC Library App ePlatform OR all children have subscription to Cengage/Sunshine Online for online reading options.
- Practise recall of times tables on a daily basis (10 minutes)
- Library Day is Thursdays
- Please remember that SchoolStream and Seesaw are our schools main platforms for communication. Both of these apps are free and allow me to get out an urgent message to all in a timely manner.
- As per school policy, Term 4 expectations is a hat and sunscreen daily - with hats being provided by school. Please encourage your child to apply sunscreen before they leave home, they can top up their sunscreen with school provided or personal sunscreen throughout the day.
- Warmer weather means some children are getting very hot and sweaty at lunchtimes. Roll on deodorants may become useful.

Mark your calendars! We have a massive lineup this term!

October 10th: Loud Shirt Day
October 17th: Livestock Day
October 22nd: Group Day
October 24th: Teacher Only Day
October 30th: Calendar Art Order due
October 31st: Woolshed arrives
November 5th: Rural Athletics
November 12th: Subway Lunch
November 19th: Interschool Athletics
November 20th: Hearing & Vision
December 3rd: Year 6 Orientation Day
December 16th: Last Day of Term 4

Ngaa mihi nui,
Whaea Leasa

